

# Pediatric Influenza Vaccine Bulletin

September 2007

Immunization Program

## Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Pediatric Recommendations

### *New for this year:*

Children aged 6 months - 8 years who received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination, now need to receive 2 doses the following year, with single annual doses in subsequent years (see dosing table and notes at the bottom of the page)

### *Flu Review:*

Influenza vaccine is recommended for all children aged 6 – 59 months, their household contacts, and out of home caregivers. Additionally, flu vaccine is recommended for any child 6 months or older with a medical condition that places them at increased risk for complications of influenza disease.

- Children aged 6-23 months, and children of any age with chronic medical conditions including asthma, are at highest risk for hospitalization and severe complications from influenza disease
- Children 24-59 months are at increased risk for influenza-associated clinic and emergency department visits, particularly if they have a high-risk medical condition
- To prevent transmission to the persons identified above, influenza vaccine is recommended for household contacts and out-of-home caregivers
- For full ACIP recommendations go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>

## Influenza Vaccine Supplied By the VDH Immunization Program

- Flu vaccine distributed by the VDH is available only for pediatric use, ages 6 months through age 18 years. Adults age 19 and older should seek flu vaccine from their health care provider, or for locations of public flu clinics see the VDH Flu Clinic Finder at [healthvermont.gov/](http://healthvermont.gov/)
- Flu vaccine manufacturers indicate no delays or complications are anticipated with production or distribution this year. It's important to recognize that the limited supply of flu vaccine in the early season doesn't usually represent a vaccine shortage. Vaccine is shipped from the manufacturers as it's approved by the Federal Drug Administration in multiple batches and should be administered throughout the season.
- Vaccines highlighted on the back page have been ordered by the VDH. Approximately 80% will be supplied in multidose vials. Estimates based on prior use indicate that not enough prefilled .25mL syringes will be available for 2 doses each for all children 6 – 35 months. Multidose vials should be used when prefilled syringes run out. Single dose .5mL vials and syringes will be in very limited supply. All provider sites will not receive all products. Please anticipate multiple shipments. The first shipment should be available for pick up the first week of October.
- Providers with unique issues (i.e., privately purchased flu vaccine for children last year and will not this year, not enough refrigerator space for prefilled syringes, etc) are urged to contact the Immunization Program.

## Influenza Vaccine Dosing for Inactivated, Injectable Influenza Vaccine

Age	Dose	Number of Doses
<b>6-35 months</b>	<b>0.25 mL</b>	<b>1 or 2*</b>
<b>3-8 years</b>	<b>0.5 mL</b>	<b>1 or 2*</b>
<b>9 years to adult</b>	<b>0.5 mL</b>	<b>1</b>

\* Two doses are recommended for children under 9 years of age who are receiving flu vaccine for the first time. Children who were vaccinated last year for the first time and received only one dose, need two doses this year. If possible, give dose two before December.

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## Influenza Vaccine Manufacturers for the 2007-08 Influenza Season

Manufacturer <i>VDH Supplied Vaccine is Highlighted</i>	Vaccine	Formulation	Thimerosal Preservative	Age Indication
Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.	Fluzone™ Inactivated Trivalent	Multi-dose vial	Yes	≥ 6 months
		Single-dose pre-filled 0.5 mL syringe or vial	None	≥ 36 months
		Single-dose pre-filled 0.25 mL syringe	None	6-35 months
Novartis (formerly Chiron Corporation)	Fluvirin™ Inactivated Trivalent	Multi-dose vial	Yes	≥ 4 years
		Single-dose 0.5 mL syringe	<1µg Hg/0.5mL dose, trace only, preservative free	≥ 4 years
GlaxoSmithKline, Inc.	Fluarix™ Inactivated Trivalent	Single-dose pre-filled syringe 0.5 mL	<1µg Hg/0.5mL dose, trace only, preservative free	≥ 18 years
	FluLaval™ Inactivated Trivalent	Multi-dose vial	yes	≥ 18 years
MedImmune Vaccines, Inc	FluMist™ LAIV	Single-dose sprayer	None	Healthy persons 2-49 years

### Statement from the CDC on Influenza Vaccine and Thimerosal

- Thimerosal, a mercury-containing compound, has been used as a preservative in vaccines since the 1930s and is used in multidose vials of inactivated influenza vaccine to reduce the likelihood of bacterial contamination.
- Since mid-2001, vaccines routinely recommended for infants in the United States have been manufactured either without or with only trace amounts of thimerosal, resulting in a substantial reduction in the total mercury exposure from vaccines for children.
- The risks for severe illness from influenza virus infection are elevated among both young children and pregnant women, and persons in both groups benefit from vaccination. In Vermont, there have been 4 pediatric influenza related deaths since 2004.
- In contrast, no scientifically conclusive evidence exists of harm from exposure to thimerosal preservative-containing vaccine. In fact, evidence is accumulating that supports the absence of any harm resulting from exposure to such vaccines. Therefore, the benefits of influenza vaccination outweigh the theoretical risk, if any, from thimerosal exposure through vaccination.
- Persons for whom inactivated influenza vaccine is recommended may receive vaccine with or without thimerosal, depending on availability.

### Protect Your Patients, Protect Yourself

A yearly influenza vaccination is recommended for health care workers. Influenza is highly infectious via large and aerosolized droplets. Individuals may not know that they are infected due to the fact that 50% of influenza infections are asymptomatic and the virus is communicable from one day prior to the onset of symptoms.